



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE, FBI AND MECKLENBURG PD ARREST DANGEROUS GANG MEMBER IN CHARLOTTE**

CHARLOTTE—An 18-year-old dangerous gang member of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) was arrested here Monday by special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and officers of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department.

Edison Andre Carrasco-Molina is a citizen of Chile who is in the country illegally. Carrasco-Molina has a criminal history that includes convictions for assault, trespass, unlawful concealment and disorderly conduct. Carrasco-Molina was in possession of a rifle at the time of his arrest. The U.S. Attorney's Office has accepted the case for federal criminal prosecution.

Carrasco-Molina has been charged with being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm in violation of 18 USC 922. He also faces administrative immigration charges for being in the country illegally.

"Law enforcement partnerships are what keep criminals like Carrasco-Molina off the streets," said Jeff Jordan, assistant special agent-in-charge in North Carolina. "ICE will use its broad immigration authorities to ensure that this criminal experiences the full weight of the law. We will not cease in our efforts to restore integrity to our nation's immigration system."

Carrasco-Molina is in U.S. Marshals custody awaiting the outcome of his criminal case.

This arrest is the latest enforcement action under Operation Community Shield, an ICE anti-gang initiative launched in February to disrupt, dismantle and assist in criminal prosecution of violent gangs by employing the full range of authorities available to ICE. The initial target of Operation Community Shield was MS-13, which is the largest and most violent street gang in the country.

In May 2005, ICE expanded Operation Community Shield to include all criminal street gangs with foreign-born members. With the launch of this second phase, ICE's Operation Community shield aims to ensure that gang members have no safe haven in our nation's communities. Since the launch of Operation Community Shield, there have been more than 1,300 street gang members arrested nationwide.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21<sup>st</sup> century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*